Praying Through Genesis 1:1-13
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Heavenly Father, Creator and Sovereign Lord over all, Maker of heaven and earth, the Source of all that is Good, Holy, Pure, Just, Merciful and Loving, may You be glorified and honored throughout the earth and heavens. Lord Jesus, Light of light and life, through whom all things were created and without whom nothing was made, may You receive the glory and honor You deserve as our Redeemer and Friend. Even as we bow before You in humble submission and prayer, we ask that You fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we might bear fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Please grant us wisdom, understanding, and knowledge as we study Your Holy Word, beginning now with Genesis. As we study truths old and new from the Bible, please grant us the courage to live according to the Truth, help us live holy as You are Holy, and give us a deeper reverence of You day-by-day. May we live pleasing to You and bring You great joy by all we say and do.

Thank You for making a good and beautiful world for us and for revealing Your infinite power and wisdom through all You have made. Thank You for bringing light into the darkness that the darkness cannot overcome, and please push all moral and spiritual darkness out of our lives. Thank You for giving us an orderly creation that makes planning and reasoning possible. Thank You for speaking to us in the Bible, that we might learn the truth about You and Your good, perfect, holy, and loving ways in

our fallen world. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Please Note: I first learned about "Praying Through the Bible" from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own "Prayer Through the Bible" using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read How God Teaches Us to Pray: Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.